



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

014565

Agency for Toxic Substances
and Disease Registry
Atlanta GA 30333

January 18, 1996

Stacy Mansoor
Administrator, Pantex Plant Citizens' Advisory Board

Dear Stacy,

Due to continued travel restrictions, I shall be unable to attend the January 23rd PPCAB meeting. However, I do want to update you on developments regarding my work on the Pantex Plant Public Health Assessment.

In December 1995, ATSDR was notified that RDX and HMX contamination had been detected in the perched aquifer in off-site monitoring wells. Of the two compounds RDX exceeded ATSDR drinking water comparison values. ATSDR responded to the notification by providing the RDX and HMX Toxicological Profiles to the Pantex Plant staff and assisting plant staff in the development of a presentation on the nature and health effects of the two compounds. ATSDR continues to provide assistance and guidance as necessary.

I hope to be able to attend the February 27th meeting and update the PPCAB on the Pantex Plant Public Health Assessment progress. Again, if PPCAB members have any suggestions for additions to the attached list of community health concerns, please ask them to contact me at 404-639-6068.

Sincerely,


Richard Collins, MSEH, RS
Senior Environmental Health Scientist

520343



Pantex Plant Public Health Issues for Evaluation by ATSDR (1/18/96)

- Potential contamination of private and municipal wells
- Potential for airborne exposure as a result of open burning and dispersal of explosive residues, and sediments from dry surface impoundments
- Perceived increase in cancer rate
- Asbestos disposal area in the NE corner of the plant
- Public health impact of the discharge of waste waters from Pantex and the old Air Force base to the surface impoundment located NE of the plant off-site (Pantex Lake)
- Effects of Tritium releases, last one recorded 1989
- Public health impact of agricultural activities